

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

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TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD PAPER ON LOW COST IMPROVEMENTS TO THE OUTDOOR ENVIR-
ONMENT: SUGGESTED CHANGES IN TEXT

REF: (A) OECD DOCUMENT U/ENV/75.18 OF NOVEMBER 13; (B) A/CT:75.54

PLEASE PASS SOONEST FOLLOWING TEXT TO CHARLES THOMSEN, OECD
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE FROM RICHARD H. BROUN, US DELEGATE TO NOV-
EMBER 1975 URBAN GROUP MEETING:

1. "HERE ARE OUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LOW COST
IMPROVEMENTS IN REF B, TOGETHER WITH THOSE PROPOSED
BY US WHICH WERE NOT READ AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING AND WHICH YOU
REQUESTED BY THE 23RD.

2. "WE SUPPORT ALL THE CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT IN
REF B, INCLUDING THAT REGARDING THE NEW ANNEX (U/CT/75.32,
LP. 2-17). WE ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT ALL THE CHANGES PROPOSED
AT THE MEETING BUT HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THOSE FOR PARAS. 29,
42 AND 44 WHICH WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER. (A) PARA. 29 SEEMS
TO US TO BE UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION OF PARA 22. (SEE REF. B,
P.2). (B) RE PARA. 42, WE FEEL

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THIS AMENDMENT SHOULD BE OMMITTED AS IT WEAKENS RATHER THAN STRE-

NGTHENS THE SAME POINTS MADE IN THE PREVIOUS AND FOLLOWING SENTENCES AS WELL AS IN THE EXCELLENT SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL FOR PARA. 5. IT ALSO TENDS TO UNDERMINE READER CONFIDENCE IN THE WHOLE PAPER SINCE IF MANY OF THE MEASURES TREATED ARE NOW LOW COST IMPROVEMENTS, THEY ARE EXTRANEIOUS TO A PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT. WE SUGGEST YOU INCLUDE CAVEAT RE COST BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND SENTENCES OF PARA. 44: ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT IN ITSELF A LOW COST MEASURE, THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAFFIC ASPECTS IN IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING REDUCING TRAFFIC NOISE, MAKE IT RELEVANT TO THIS DISCUSSION.

3. "OUR SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES NOT READ AT THE MEETING ARE:
(A) PARA. 24, SENT. 1: THE DOUBTS REFERRED TO EMERGED, PARTICULARLY IN THE U.S., IN THE MID TO LATE 1950'S SUGGEST YOU REPLACE "BEGAN TO EMERGE" WITH "INTENSIFIED." (B) PARA. 25, SENT. 1: POPULAR REACTION TO THIS KIND OF TOWN PLANNING WAS ONE OF NUMEROUS REASONS FOR THE FORMATION OF THE GROUPS AND MOVEMENTS MENTIONED; SUGGEST YOU REPLACE "LED TO" WITH "STRENGTHENED." (C) PARA 76: U/CT/75.32 MAKES EXCELLENT POINT RE ENSURING THAT FACILITIES ARE FULLY USED WHICH COULD BE STRESSED IN PAPER ITSELF. U.S. EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT WALLS AND RAILINGS AROUND GRASSED AREAS SURROUNDING FLATS DO NOT REDUCE LITTERING OR VANDALISM. NOTE ALSO RECOMMENDATION U/CT/75.32 THAT WALLS, ETC. BE ELIMINATED. WE SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER REPLACING LAST FOUR SENTENCES THIS PARA. WITH "SUCH TERRITORIAL AMBIGUITY MAY BE ELIMINATED BY LANDSCAPING WHICH DEFINES THE AREA. IN SOME CASES IT MAY ALSO BE POSSIBLE TO ENSURE FULL USE OF THE AREA AND ITS PROPER MAINTENANCE THROUGH ITS CONVERSION TO PRIVATE GARDENS, SMALL PARKS OR OTHER RECREATIONAL USE." KISSINGER

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